

CLAIMS

1. An inhibitor of lymphocyte activation comprising, as an active ingredient, an antibody that specifically binds to a protein having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. An inhibitor according to claim 1 in which the lymphocytes are T cells.

3. An inhibitor according to claim 1 in which the lymphocytes are B cells.

4. An inhibitor according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ ^{Claim 1} in which the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

5. An inhibitor according to ~~claim 4~~ in which the antibody has the constant region of human antibody.

6. An inhibitor according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~ in which the antibody is a chimeric antibody or a humanized antibody.

7. An inhibitor according to ~~claim 4~~ in which the antibody is anti-HM1.24 antibody.

8. An inhibitor according to claim 6 in which the antibody is chimeric anti-HM1.24 antibody.

9. An inhibitor according to claim 6 in which the antibody is humanized anti-HM1.24 antibody.

10. An inhibitor according to claim 1 in which the antibody specifically binds to an epitope recognized by anti-HM1.24 antibody.

11. A preventive and/or therapeutic agent for diseases associated with lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, an antibody that specifically binds to a protein having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

12. The preventive and/or therapeutic agent according to claim 11, in which the disease associated with lymphocyte activation is an autoimmune disease, a rejection in organ transplantation, or allergy.

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